TED Questions

In situations where the child appears to be making a possible disclosure or has a suspicious injury, it is reasonable to ask open, non-leading questions in order to establish the child's story. Examples of questions are. "That's a nasty bruise, how did it happen? Tell me about what happened? You seem a bit upset and I'm worried about you, is anything troubling you?; Can you tell me more about that?"

You may wish to use the acronym 'TED' as a reminder that the child can be encouraged to 'Tell', 'Explain' and 'Describe' the concern. If it is necessary to seek further clarification, staff should keep to open questions such as What? When? Who? How? Where? It is important to remember that questions should only be asked to help clarify whether the child is at risk of harm. Once clarification is achieved, no further questions should be asked

T – Tell
Tell me what happened

E – Explain
Explain what he/she did

D – Describe
Describe the room

Tell me is a useful open question:

1. Suggests, in a direct way that you want to know
2. Suggests that you are ready to here was

With young children avoid multiple questions

Do not ask leading questions – allegations of abuse may lead to a criminal investigation

Questions are sometimes necessary to clarify safeguarding concerns. If you need to ask questions ensure to:

- Ask open questions such as 'what', 'where' 'who' and 'how'.
- Remember TED: Tell, Explain and Describe
- Avoid closed questions that elicit 'yes' or 'no' responses
- Avoid 'why' questions
- Avoid multiple questions in one sentence
- Avoid leading or probing questions

Remember that if a child make's a disclosure of sexual or physical harm, or they have an injury and have made a full disclosure, no further questions are then necessary and you must then take immediate safeguarding action.